

Cleanup Enters Second Phase

Ford Road Landfill

Elyria, Ohio

April 2012

You're Invited

The EPA will share details about the second phase of the Ford Road Landfill cleanup at an Open House at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 10, at Elyria City Hall, 131 Court St.

For more information

EPA:

Patricia Krause

Community Involvement
Coordinator

312-886-9506

krause.patricia@epa.gov

Demaree Collier

Remedial Project Manager

312-886-0214

collier.demaree@epa.gov

Call EPA toll-free, 800-621-8431,
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., weekdays.

Ohio EPA:

Vanessa Steigerwald-Dick

Environmental Scientist

330-963-1219

vanessa.steigerwald@epa.state.oh.us

oh.us

Ohio Department of Health:

Robert Frey

Chief, Site Assessment Branch

614-466-1069

bob.frey@odh.ohio.gov

**Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry:**

Mark Johnson

Regional Director

312-886-0840

mdjohnson@cdc.gov

More information is at www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/fordroad or at the official information repository: Elyria Public Library West River Branch, 1194 W. River Road, North.



The tarp holds contaminated soil in place. The soil was removed from a spot of higher contamination, called a "hot spot," and will be consolidated into the landfill under the new cap.

The second phase of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Ford Road Landfill cleanup will begin in late May or early June along the sides of the landfill. This will be the biggest phase of the cleanup.

When waste was brought to the landfill, some of it tumbled down the north and south slopes and was never completely covered. The trash, waste, debris and other items from the steep landfill slopes and the river plain will be either removed and incorporated back into the landfill or taken to a licensed facility if necessary. Workers will re-grade the landfill to make sure all waste remains under at least two feet of clean clay or soil cap material. The work will also improve surface water control.

Workers will ensure that thin areas of the landfill cover are improved. They will move material from the top of the landfill, where the current cover is thicker, to more shallow areas. In some areas they will replace topsoil and plants. In addition, workers will install a sedimentation pond to catch stormwater runoff. An access road will be built and gates will remain at entrances to the site throughout this second phase of the cleanup.

During construction

Workers will take several actions to answer community concerns. They will:

- Clean all trucks before they leave the site.
- Take landfill waste to a licensed facility if necessary.
- Spray water on the site to minimize dust.
- Work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Recent cleanup

Last summer and fall, soil contaminated with PCBs and chlorinated solvents was removed from the northeast corner of the site near the Black River. PCBs were formerly used as coolants and lubricants in transformers and other electrical equipment. Chlorinated solvents are used in a wide variety of commercial and industrial purposes such as degreasers, cleaning solutions and pesticides.

During an investigation of the site, EPA found that some PCB-contaminated motor oil was migrating to the Black River. To remove this contaminated area, EPA removed some soil at the edge of the river.



Contaminated soil was removed from the landfill near the river.

After the cleanup

Once the second phase is complete, EPA will inspect and monitor the site and take regular samples of the ground water. Federal law requires EPA to conduct a formal review every five years to make sure the cleanup continues to protect people and the environment.

Re-use of the land will be restricted. The site will be safe to use as a greenspace and walking area, but there will be restrictions in place to prevent anyone from digging on the site or putting up new buildings.

Background

The Ford Road Landfill is a 15-acre inactive facility on the north edge of Elyria. The Black River runs east of the landfill. Several industries dumped municipal and industrial waste at the landfill until it closed in 1974.

In the late 1970s, Ohio EPA found that contaminated liquid was seeping into the Black River from a small spot in the landfill's northeastern corner. Cover material was put in place to stop the seeping, which seemed to be caused by rainwater filtering into the landfill. Environmental studies showed the soil, ground water and surface water directly around the landfill was still contaminated. The current cleanup plan focuses on these areas.

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FORD ROAD LANDFILL: Cleanup Enters Second Phase

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Region 5
Superfund Division (SI-7J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590



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